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4 December 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: CS SENIOR SEMINAR -- Interview with [REDACTED] 25X1A
[REDACTED] 3 December 1968

1. I opened the interview with a prepared, succinct exposition of the origin and nature of the CS Senior Seminar proposal, a brief summary of the modification in concept and substance prompted by the Division and Staff responses to the initial draft proposal (which, I noted, was not prepared by OTR), and a request for further comments, and, specifically, identification of "vital, current CS problems" for discussion at the Seminar.

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2. [REDACTED] expressed the view that it would be more productive to start with a real, comprehensive outline for a Seminar, to which the Division and Staffs could then react. Comments on a specific proposal, he thought, were usually much more useful than comments resulting from "thinking in the abstract." I think that

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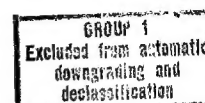
[REDACTED] point is very well taken. I had originally prepared just such an outline, before the Seminar concept was so drastically scaled down, and certainly the results of my interviews with senior CS personnel "thinking in the abstract" have been rather disappointing.

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3. [REDACTED] was very positively disposed toward the Seminar idea. He noted that we were entering a period when the generations in the CS were changing, which may account, he thought, for the current emphasis on the writing of CS history.

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[redacted], our real problems of fundamental importance, and then ask senior CS officers to discuss them candidly and constructively. One need spend only little time on past experience -- much of which has been summarized in various studies, which could be reviewed before the Seminar. Rather, these senior officers should look forward and come up with suggestions for doing certain things differently. [redacted] was very much in favor of a Seminar product for submission to the DDP.

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4. I outlined the AF proposal for a two-phase approach to the Seminar (see original AF memorandum) and asked [redacted] for his reaction. He saw no particular merit or advantage in that approach.

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5. [redacted] was forced to cut the interview short to make another engagement, but we agreed to continue on 6 December.

[redacted]

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Coordinator,
CS SENIOR SEMINAR

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